



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
CLEANUP

21 January 2016

Martha Jensen
USFWS – Lacey WA Office

VIA Email

Re: Informal Consultation on Gorst Creek-Bremerton Auto-Wrecking Landfill Removal Action

Dear Ms. Jensen:

In accordance with the section 7(a)(2) consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2), please find enclosed for your review and concurrence the biological assessment prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency for the removal action at the Bremerton Auto-Wrecking / Gorst Creek Landfill Site (Site) located at 4275 State Highway 3 SW in Port Orchard, Washington. The Site consists of a waste disposal area in a deep ravine through which Gorst Creek flows, approximately 2.5 miles upstream of the Creek's confluence with Puget Sound at Sinclair Inlet. The EPA's selected response action involves the removal and offsite disposal of all waste material and the restoration of the ravine and Creek ecosystem, including the reestablishment of fish passage and habitat.

The proposed removal action will be funding through a three party agreement between the EPA, U.S. Navy and the current property owner. Pursuant to section 122(j) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(j), The EPA provided notice of the response action to the federal natural resource trustees, pursuant to section 122(j) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(j), in a letter dated April 27, 2015. In addition, EPA has held ongoing discussions with the Suquamish Tribe and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. IN light of the feedback received from the trustees, the EPA intends to provide an opportunity for the trustees to give input and advice on the creek restoration design, including the reestablishment of habitat.

As noted in the biological assessment, the EPA anticipates starting work as soon as possible and likely no later than March 2016 to take advantage of the dry-season construction window, when the flow volume of Gorst Creek is low. The EPA expects to complete the removal and restoration action within one-year. In addition to the enclosed biological assessment, the EPA is also enclosing the Action Memorandum which provides site-specific details and more fully describes the proposed response action.

The EPA requests your concurrence, within thirty (30) days, that the Gorst Creek removal action is not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat. Thank you for your assistance with this matter and we look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me at 206-553-6709 or rodin.jeffry@epa.gov. If you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

S/ J. Rodin

Jeffry Rodin
On-Scene Coordinator

Enclosures:

1. Gorst Creek–Bremerton Auto Wrecking Landfill Biological Assessment
2. Action Memorandum for the Gorst Creek-Bremerton Auto Wrecking Landfill, Kitsap County, Washington with Figures.